CHILDREN'S BAPTISM GUIDE

We are so excited your child is considering being water baptized! Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and at RezKids we encourage them to make a decision to follow Him. Our children are encouraged to not just learn about Jesus, but learn from Him by walking with Him every day. We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be water baptized. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children under the age of 6 can have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait for baptism until they are a little older.

As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child.

1. **When and why did you decide to follow Jesus and invite Him into your heart?**
   Your child should have a memory of when he or she understood what Jesus did, and that he or she needs Jesus in their life. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when they were alone.
2. **What does it mean to be water baptized?**
   It means I'm following Jesus; It means I'm a Christian and I want to show the world; It's a picture of what Jesus has done on the inside of me.
3. **Why do you want to be water baptized?**
   Jesus was baptized and he told us to also; because I feel like God is telling me to and I want to follow Him.

Your child is ready if you feel your child understands salvation and what it means to be water baptized. Please take time to read through the water baptism devotional on the back of this page with him or her.

Water baptisms take place during the worship service in the main auditorium, the first Sunday of the month. Register in the church center app under "events" and select the upcoming "Water Baptism".

Your child is not ready if you don't feel your child understands salvation or what it means to be water baptized. It is ok to wait. During this time, let your child observe water baptism and talk to them about what it means. You can also read through the water baptism devotional with your child and encourage them in their personal friendship with Jesus.

BAPTISM DEVOTIONAL

OBEYING JESUS' COMMANDMENT

So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end. – Matthew 28:19-20 (NIRV)

Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take in following Jesus. A friend of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does the things He did. The number one reason you should get baptized in water is because Jesus did and He told us to also.

When you decided to follow Jesus, you were brought into God's kingdom under Jesus' control. That means you have decided to do what Jesus says and follow His example. Jesus was water baptized, so we should be too. Take time right now to read about Jesus' baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

Review question: What is the number one reason you should be baptized in water?

AN OUTWARD PICTURE

When you were baptized, you were buried together with him. You were raised to life together with him by believing in God's power. God raised Jesus from the dead. – Colossians 2:12 (NIRV)

We get baptized in front of people so that everyone knows on the outside what has happened inside of our heart. Water baptism is just an outward picture of what Jesus has done for you on the inside. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you asked Jesus into your heart, there was a death, a burial, and a resurrection (that means raising back to life) that happened in your spirit as you prayed the prayer. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

That's why you go all the way under the water when you are baptized. You are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you did) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.

Review question: What is water baptism a picture of?

A DECISION OF FAITH

By being baptized, we were buried with Christ [Jesus] into his death. Christ [Jesus] has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ [Jesus] we can also live a new life.
– Romans 6:4 NIRV

Water baptism does not save you. It has no purpose or meaning until after a person has decided to follow Jesus and invited Jesus into his heart and life. But water baptism is a very important step in your new Christian life. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive Him into your heart. When you are baptized in water, you are making a decision of faith to follow Him all the days of your life.

You are choosing to let Jesus and your new, born-again spirit be in charge of your life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow the Lord. This is an important milestone in your spiritual life and should be celebrated with your family and friends! Invite them to come and watch your baptism and then celebrate together!

Review question: When you are baptized in water, it means you have made a decision of faith to do what?

If you have any questions, please email Pastor Amy Baker at abaker@rez.church